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returns. This system of licensing will prevent hoarding of stocks and enable Government to requisition stocks when need arises."

SRI C. KANDASAMI :—" The price of paddy has gone up very high. May I know why it has not come down with all these efforts of the Government?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Whenever a large quantity of rice or paddy is available, the price goes down and whenever there is a relative scarcity, the price goes up. The price is fluctuating."

SRI C. KANDASAMI :—" The price in Tanjore is between Rs. 10 and Rs. 13 per kalam, and it has not gone down. I ask why the Government, in spite of all these efforts, have not been able to bring down the price to the pre-decontrol level?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" If the reference is to pre-decontrol control price, the present price has not come down to that level. When there is normal production, we expect it to come down to that level."

Village Vaidya Scheme.

* 306 Q.—

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member Sri M. R. Appa Rao who gave notice of the question is not in his place. The question and answer will be printed in the proceedings."

SRI M. R. APPA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Village Vaidya Scheme launched by Madras Government is based on the recommendations contained in the Chopra Committee Report; and

(b) why the Government selected unregistered practitioners for training as Village Vaidyas?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) The Village Vaidya Scheme was started by the State Government in 1947 and the Chopra Committee Report was published in 1948. However, there are certain common features in the Village Vaidya Scheme as implemented by this Government and the subsequent recommendation in the Chopra Committee's Report.

" (b) The Medical Practitioners registered under the Madras Medical Registration Act are fully qualified to practise Medicine and Surgery and the Village Vaidya Scheme is not meant for them. This scheme is meant to give training to Vaidyas who have already established themselves in the villages, so as to ensure that the treatment they give is reasonably safe. They are also given training, in the preventive and public health aspects so as to make their work more useful to the villagers among whom they live and work. Though unregistered practitioners are selected for training

under the scheme, practitioners registered by the Central Board of Indigenous Medicine will be given the first preference. Graduates and diplomates of recognized institutions, if selected under this scheme, are exempted from the training."

Supply of chemical manures.

9-20 a.m. * 307 *Q.*—SRI V. SRI KRISHNA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Director of Agriculture had recently issued any order to alter the usual procedure of supply of chemical manures through the tender firms and the co-operative stores;

(*b*) whether there had been rise in the prices due to this alteration and the consequent additional transport charges; and

(*c*) whether the Government have received any representations from the parties concerned expressing the inconveniences caused by this alteration?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" (*a*) No. Supplies of chemical fertilisers to tender firms and Co-operative Societies were hitherto made both from Madras and from the Agricultural Department depots in the districts. Consequently, two prices were prevailing, one in respect of stocks supplied direct from Madras and the other in regard to supplies made from the Departmental depots, the latter being slightly more costly owing to the addition of transport charges and the Departmental overheads. With a view to avoid scope for malpractices in the sale of chemical fertilizers to the public which the existence of two prices may afford and to achieve a better regulation of supplies to the distributing agencies, supply of stocks direct from Madras, has been stopped and supplies are now made only from the Departmental depots.

" (*b*) No. There has been no increase in price as such. But the slightly lesser price applicable to stocks received direct from Madras, as compared to the price of stocks supplied from the Departmental depots is no longer in force.

" (*c*) Yes. Representations have been received from the ryots of Ramachandrapuram taluk (East Godavari district), Narasannapet taluk (Srikakulam district), Kakinada taluk (East Godavari district) and Chandole (Guntur district). A representation has also been received from a tender firm."

SRI V. SRI KRISHNA :—" Is it a fact, Sir, that chemical manures in excess of the usual requirements were taken delivery of from the Union Government and that last year some 90,000 tons of chemical manures were unsold? In view of the fact that prices in the Sindhri factory have fallen, what is the amount of loss incurred by this Government this year? "

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" The question does not arise, Sir."